

# Hispanic American Experience

# Overview

- Major Groups
- Definition
- Historical Information
- Basic Culture Concepts

# Definition

According to DoD Directive 1350.2 a Hispanic is a person having origins in any of the following peoples of Mexico, Puerto Rico, Cuba, or Central or South America, or other Spanish cultures, regardless of race

# Population Trend

- Fastest growing population in U.S.
- Los Angeles-9.6 million, almost half population
- New York-3.6 million, 1/5 cities population
- Miami-2 million, half the cities population
- Houston-1.6 million, 1/5 cities population
- Chicago-1.5 million, 10 % cities population
- San Francisco- 1.4 million, 20% cities population
- Dallas-1.2 million, almost 20% of cities population

# Major Groups

- Mexican
- Puerto Ricans
- Cubans
- South Americans

# Mexican Americans

- Manifest Destiny paved the way for annexation of Mexican territory
- 1836, Texas Independence
- 1845, Mexican-American War
- 1848, Treaty of Guadeloupe-Hidalgo
- 1920s, Industrial revolution, country growing
- 1930s, Depression, unemployment, rejection sent back
- “Bracero” program, W.W.II-recruited for war effort

# Puerto Ricans

- Became Americans by conquest
- Spanish Colonization 1493
- Treaty of Paris
- Jones Act 1917
- Commonwealth 1952

# Cubans

- Political refugees
- Communist takeover 1959
- Mareaal Sealift 1980

# Central Americans

Many came to the US to seek political asylum to political strife and to escape extreme poverty

# South Americans

Immigrated to the US in smaller numbers than other Hispanic groups. Reason for immigration was for better economic conditions. Most were wealthy professional

# Basic Culture Concepts

- Race - Can be classified as any race
- Language - Some only speak English, others only Spanish, some are bilingual
- Time of arrival in the US - 1st, 2nd. 3rd generation
- National Origin - Relates to where they came from
- Public Law 94-311 16 June 76 - Provide better definition

# Hispanic Families

- Extended family
- Nuclear family
- Father, mother, children and children of mother and father from previous unions
- Mother-based

# Family Values

- Family oriented
- Patriarchal
- Roles assigned based on gender
- Older members carry authority
- Mother usual disciplines, father is role model
- Children vary, older females take care of younger children, same with the males, also takes the role of parents
- Grand Parents highly respected

# Women's Roles

- Single generalizations an unfair stereotype, factor effecting this
- Degree of acculturation
- Job availability
- Working outside the home

# Religion

- Catholicism, about 80% are Roman Catholic
- Growing appeal to Protestantism
- Religion is 50/50. Church perceived as a source of physical and emotional support

# Terms

- Machismo-defined as as a learned sense of responsibilities. Refers to Males
- Hemb/Macha applies to females
- Respeto- dignity, to have respect, a person must act worthy of being respected

# Hispanic Profile

- Youngest major population
- Rapid growth rate
- Mexicans are largest, Cubans the smallest
- Education profile not good, more likely to drop out
- Income gap has increased
- Highest number of children in poverty

# Anti-Hispanic Discrimination

- English only movement
- Discrimination in the workplace
  - If you looked Spanish you didn't get hired
- Education
- Length of time in U.S.
- Language Barriers

# Hispanics in the Military

- Underrepresented in all grades
- Inadequate academic preparation
- Lack language and technical skills
- Intense family attachment
- Inadequate time allowed to make enlistment decision
- Retention and adaptability in the environment are important

# Military Contributions

- More than 9,900 fought in the Civil War
- Spanish American War, Hispanics served with the Rough Riders
- Insufficient data for W.W.I, David Barkley awarded Medal Of Honor
- 250,000-500,000 served in W.W.II
- During Korean War, 9 Medals of Honor awarded
- 80,000 served in Vietnam, 13 awarded Medal of Honor
- 20,000 participate in Desert Shield/Storm
- Total of 38 Hispanic received the Medal of Honor

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